(b) if so, the facts in this regard; and

(c) the pleas put forward by America and India respectively over the issue and the efforts proposed to be made to sort out the issue?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN): (a) to (c) Article 6(iii) of the Agreement for Cooperation between the Government of India and the Government of the United States of America concerning Peaceful Uses of Nuclear Energy, inter-alia, states that India agreed to establish a new national reprocessing facility dedicated to reprocessing safeguarded nuclear material under IAEA safeguards. Article 6(iii) of the agreement calls for consultations on arrangements and procedures within one year.

In March 2009 the US responded to India's request invoking Article 6 (iii) of the Indo-US Agreement on arrangements and procedures confirming that the first round of formal consultations, would commence no later than 3 August 2009 and that final agreement on arrangements and procedures is to be reached no later than 3 August, 2010. The first round of negotiations between India and the United States had taken place on 21-22 July 2009. The latest round of negotiations took place on 21-22 November 2009. The process of negotiations is a continuous process aimed at arriving at an agreement by August 2010.

Changes in civil nuclear liability bill

†3087. SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government has made changes in "Civil Nuclear Liability Bill" under the pressure of foreign nuclear companies;

(b) the details thereof;

(c) whether as per the draft of Bill all the liabilities have been fixed on Nuclear Power Corporation of India if the situation arise from any sort of accident; and

(d) if so, the complete details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Mining of uranium in Meghalaya

†3088. SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI:
SHRI MOTILAL VORA:
Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(a) whether it is a fact that a large quantity of Uranium has been found in Meghalaya;

(b) whether it is also a fact that Khasi Student Union (KSU) is creating hindrance in the mining of this Uranium due to which the mining work could not be commenced;

(c) the demands of KSU;

(d) whether the KSU is working under the influence of anti-national elements; and

(e) the action being taken by the Government to expedite mining of Uranium?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. Khasi Students Union is opposing the Uranium mining on the grounds of influx of outsiders into Meghalaya and perceived health hazards in the mining and adjoining areas.

(d) No authentic information is available in this regard.

(e) The Department of Atomic Energy and Uranium Corporation of India Limited (UCIL) have for the last five years been regularly conducting Awareness Programme to clear the misconceptions regarding uranium mining in West Khasi Hills of Meghalaya and also addressing the economic and environmental concerns. Community development programmes about the benefits to society are on for local people including highlighting the economic benefits for the people and the region arising out of mining in Meghalaya. As part of the confidence building measures, visit of local people & NGOs to the operating units of UCIL in Jaduguda were arranged to provide assurance on safety and best environment management practices adopted by UCIL.

Empowered group of Ministers on price of 3G spectrum

3089. SHRI PENUMALLI MADHU:
SHRI M.V. MYSURA REDDY:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is true that the Empowered Group of Ministers (EGoM) has reserved the price of 3G spectrum at Rs.3,500 crores;

(b) if so, the details of the recommendations made by the EGoM; and

(c) by when the process for auctioning of 3G starts and the total spectrum that is proposed for auction?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI GURUDAS KAMAT): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. EGoM in its meeting held on August 27, 2009 besides other issues, inter-alia, decided that the reserve price of 3,500 crores per one block of 2X5 MHz of 3G spectrum in 2.1 GHz band should be adopted. Regarding the quantum of 3